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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

November 3, 1967

TRAINING OF NEGROES IN CUBA

This Bureau is in receipt of a copy of a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) communication dated October 31, 1967, regarding the training of Negroes in Cuba. The original of the communication was addressed to the Honorable Walt W. Rostow, Special Assistant to the President.

Information is contained therein to the effect that three Cuban sources during the past four months have reported the existence of a training school near Santiago de Cuba where from 100 to 150 young men are being groomed for subversive operations against the United States to include sabotage in connection with race riots directed at bringing about a Negro revolution in this country. One source reported that the training includes courses in English, taught by Soviet instructors. While two of the CIA sources described the students as Negroes, there was no indication that any of the Negro students were from the United States. The third CIA source described them as young men from North Vietnam, North Korea, Africa, and Latin-American countries.

Information in the possession of this Bureau indicates that the above-described training school may well be an outgrowth of the Tri-Continental Conference, held in Havana, Cuba, in January, 1966, the declared purpose of which was organizing guerrilla warfare in Asia, Africa and Latin America. During the year following the conference this Bureau received continuing reports that the Cubans were endeavoring to implement the aims of the conference. Since Castro first came to power in Cuba in 1959, we have been alert to his possible use of refugee channels to infiltrate agents and saboteurs and have initiated appropriate investigative steps to detect this. In January, 1967, an additional program was instituted aimed at detecting Cuban-trained agents and saboteurs entering the United States through legitimate Cuban refugee channels. Such refugees have been arriving in Miami since December, 1965, at the rate of approximately 4,000 each month. [In the ten months since our Cuban refugee program was first instituted, over 1,700 cases have been opened based upon information in the backgrounds of various refugees pointing toward a potential or propensity on their parts to undertake intelligence, sabotage, or other subversive missions on behalf of the Cuban Government. Currently, these cases are being opened at a rate of about 200 a month.] 16

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TRAINING OF NEGROES IN CUBA

During late July and early August, 1967, a Latin-American Solidarity Organization (LASO) conference was held in Havana, at which the Cubans indicated that they were continuing their efforts to implement the declared aims of the Tri-Continental Conference. Numerous resolutions were promulgated at the conclusion of the LASO conference, one of which exhorted North American Negroes "to respond to the racist violence of the imperialist United States Government with an increase in direct revolutionary action." The American press and other news media extensively reported on the presence of Stokely Carmichael, foremost "black power" advocate of violence, in Cuba at the time of the LASO conference, which began on July 31, 1967. Since that date all field offices of the FBI have been alerted to Castro's obvious intention of infiltrating agents into this country for the purposes of sabotage and influencing the black nationalists and other subversive movements throughout the United States.

Our Agents on a selective basis have briefed officials of various local, county and state police agencies of the problem posed by the possible use of minority groups in carrying out sabotage on behalf of Cuba. These officials have been requested to alert their racial and security informants to provide any clues which would aid the ferreting out of potential saboteurs. In daily contacts with cooperative security officials of plants handling key Government contracts, department stores, supermarkets, and similar establishments employing sizeable labor forces, our Agents have alerted such officials to our interest in being expeditiously advised of data indicating groups or individuals within their organizations are potential tools for use by Castro in subverting the United States.

To date, no concrete evidence has been developed to indicate that any Cuban-trained saboteur has entered this country since the widely publicized Cuban sabotage ring in New York City was discovered and immobilized in 1962. Neither has any evidence been developed of clandestine entry of Cuban-trained Negroes for any other purposes, including infiltration of the black nationalist movement. The FBI currently is operating 18 Cuban-trained intelligence agents as double agents or potential double agents against the Cubans. None of these Cuban-trained intelligence agents have any information indicating Castro has been successful to date in infiltrating Negroes for the purposes described above. 21,16

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